

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 05821 291702Z

46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-01 MMO-01 SS-15 SP-02 ABF-01 NEAE-00

/031 W

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P R 291605Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 327

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER LE TS

SUBJECT: USIA PERSONNEL IN BEIRUT

REF: USIA 23553

1. WE WOULD LIKE TO BE HELPFUL IN RESOLVING RELOCATION
PROBLEM FOR USIA REGIONAL OFFICERS, IF IT DETERMINED
THEYMUST BE MOVED FROM BEIRUT. BUT WE WOULD VERY
MUCH REGRET HAVING TO INCREASE AMERICAN PRESENCE HERE.
OVER PAST TWO YEARS WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN LOWERING THIS
PRESENCE CONSIDERABLY, ESSENTIALLY THROUGH REDUCTIONS
IN STAFF OF AID AND MILITARY LIAISON OFFICE. EMBASSY
PROPER HAS ALSO RECENTLY GIVEN UP ONE SUBSTANTIVE POSITION.
WE SHOULD STRESS FURTHERMORE THAT HOUSING IS TIGHT AND
RENTS ARE RISING FAST. AS DEPT AWARE, TUNIS ALREADY
HAS FOUR REGIONAL EOPERATIONS (SECURITY, MEDICAL, B&F
AND COMMUNICATIONS) AND FIFTH, REGIONAL TECHNICAL
SECURITY OFFICE, UNDER CONSIDERATION. IF USIS REGIONAL
PERSONNEL WERE LOCATED HERE, IT WOULD PROBABLY BE
NECESSARY TO REQUEST ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL IN EMBASSY
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ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION.

2. FROM AGENCY'S POINT OF VIEW, MAIN DRAWBACK TO LOCATING REGIONAL OFFICERS IN TUNIS IS RELATIVELY POOR COMMUNICATIONS. AT PRESENT, THERE ARE NO DAILY DIRECT FLIGHTS FROM TUNIS TO OTHER MAJOR ARAB CAPITALS AND CONNECTION NECESSARY THROUGH BEIRUT OR ROME. DIRECT FLIGHT LEAVE TUNIS NO MORE THAN TWO OR THREE TIMES A WEEK. IN THIS REGARD, WE WONDER IF CONSIDERATION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ATHENS OR ROME FOR RELOCATION, SINCE IT WOULD NOT APPEAR THAT EITHER REGIONAL OFFICER WOULD NECESSARILY HAVE TO BE BASED IN ARAB COUNTRY.

3. IN SUMMARY, WE ARE NOT AT ALL KEEN ABOUT THE IDEA, BUT WILL IF ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY "PLAY BALL."
SEELYE

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NNN

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